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**J.R. SMITH**

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January 25, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

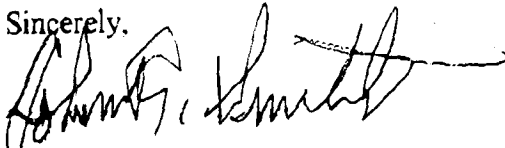
Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I was recently surprised to hear of the recent development in the Microsoft settlement. After three years of negotiations, I cannot believe that this agreement may be held back even further. The terms of this agreement were part of a sophisticated, detailed process and all affected were involved. At this point in time, the settlement is fair and reasonable and should be used as a guideline to get our technology industry back to business.

Under the settlement, Microsoft will design all future operating systems so that competitors can easily place their components on the system. Also, under this settlement, the government will appoint a full-time monitor to observe Microsoft. These concessions are clearly a step toward a more unified, stronger IT sector. By getting back to work, we can maintain our place in the competitive world market, and can get our economy back on track. To enforce this agreement would be beneficial to the consumer, the IT sector and the entire economy.

Please work to help stop any further actions against this agreement. As we support our technology industry, we support the growth of our economy and the advancement of this great country.

Sincerely,



J.R. Smith

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